

DOE Weekly Field Memo – April 8, 2009

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Conference Call to Discuss Stimulus Funding (ARRA) and Title I

Audience: Superintendents, Principals

The Consolidated and Federal Programs staff at the Vermont Department of Education will host a conference call to discuss Stimulus Funding (ARRA) and Title I, including preliminary allocations, rules, and initial guidance. The goal is to help school decision-makers better understand Title I regulations and the use of stimulus funding. For complete information, visit

http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/recovery_act.html#call.

Contact: Lisa Champney at (802) 828-6574 or lisa.champney@state.vt.us

Vermont Education Impact Overview - ARRA

Audience: All

This document, prepared by department ARRA Coordinator Rae Ann Knopf, contains information regarding the timeline, flow of funds, flow of authority, reporting and accountability of the ARRA for Vermont education. View the document at

http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/recovery_act.html#impact. The first page is especially important for school administrators.

Contact: Rae Ann Knopf at (802) 828-0555 or rae.knopf@state.vt.us.

ARRA Equipment Grants

Audience: Superintendents, Principals, School Food Directors

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) is providing a one-time appropriation for equipment assistance to school food authorities (SFAs) participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). Grants will be awarded on a competitive basis with a priority given to SFAs for schools in which at least 50 percent of the students are eligible for free or reduced price meals. View information and the application at

http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_nutrition/school_nutrition.html#equipment.

Contact: Laurie Colgan at (802) 828-5153 or laurie.colgan@state.vt.us

Item and Bias NECAP Science Review

Audience: Science Educators, Superintendents, Principals, Special Education Coordinators and Curriculum Coordinators

The Vermont Department of Education Standards and Assessment Team, in cooperation with Measured Progress, announces an opportunity for science teachers and other educators to take part in the on-going development of the New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) Science Assessment in August. Selected participants will either be reviewing items or taking part in the bias and sensitivity review of each test item. For more information go to:

http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_assessment/necap.html#bias_review.

Contact: Mary Ann Minardo at (802) 828-5410 or maryann.minardo@state.vt.us

2009-10 Supplemental Educational Services Providers Application

Audience: Superintendents, Principals, Curriculum Coordinators

The No Child Left Behind Act requires Title I schools that have not made adequate yearly progress (AYP) for three or more years to offer Supplemental Educational Services (SES) to eligible students. SES are additional services such as tutoring which are outside the regular school day. Only providers who have been approved by the Department of Education can become SES providers. People or entities (which can include supervisory unions/districts) that wish to become approved SES providers must fill out an application by 4 p.m. on May 1, 2009. To access the application go to:

http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/laws/nclba/nclba.html#provider_application.

Contact: Kathy Blanchard at (802) 828-5404 or kathy.blanchard@state.vt.us

Health Education Standards Workshop - Opportunities for Achieving Excellence

Audience: Principals, Curriculum Coordinators, Health Educators

This workshop on May 6, 2009 will provide an overview of the National Health Education Standards (NHES), Performance Indicators and the connection to the Vermont Grade Expectations. Participants will learn the characteristics of effective health education, explore ways to utilize both NHES and Vermont Grade Expectations to improve classroom instruction and examine various forms of student assessment.

Visit: http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/calendar.html#may_09.

Contact: For registration information: Sandra Skeens at (802) 468-1456 or sandra.skeens@castleton.edu.

For program information: Donna McAllister, Health Education Consultant, at (802) 828-1636 or

donna.mcallister@state.vt.us

Vermont 2009: Success Beyond Six Minimum Standards for Behavioral Interventionists

Audience: Superintendents, Principals, Special Education Administrators

These standards were written in collaboration between the Departments of Education and Mental Health with widespread input from both schools and community mental health centers. The Department of Mental Health has developed a self assessment and documentation system for community mental health centers to determine if they meet minimum standards. The Department of Mental Health will provide technical assistance and support to those community mental health centers that do not meet the minimum standards in order to develop and implement a plan to meet the minimum standards before July 1, 2009. Visit: http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_interagency.html#minimum for more information.

Contact: Deb Quackenbush at (802) 828-5877 or deb.quackenbush@state.vt.us

Local/Regional Standards Board Newsletter, Winter 2009

Audience: Local/Regional Standards Board Chairs/Co Chairs/Members, School Administrators

The Winter 2009 Local/Regional Standards Board Newsletter was distributed via e-mail in March 2009. Many e-mails bounced back. Please direct your attention to the following link for the newsletter and current information:

http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_prostandards/lrsb/lrsb.html#newsletter.

Contact: Deb Giles, Local/Regional Standards Board Consultant, at (802) 828-1370 or

deborah.giles@state.vt.us

Advisory: Student Recognition Event

Audience: All

Vermont's top academic achievers will be honored by the State Board of Education at an event to be held Tuesday, April 14, 2009 at 4 p.m. at Mt. Abraham Union High School in Bristol. The students will be recognized for their achievements in the statewide spelling bee, debate, forensics, Geo Bee, top AP and SAT scores and much more.

Contact: Communications Director Jill Remick at (802) 828-3154 or jill.remick@state.vt.us

Recognizing Talented Educators

Audience: All

The State of Vermont is seeking emerging classroom leaders. These educators may be considered for membership on advisory boards and task forces, as well as candidates for special recognition programs. Your recommendations will identify educators who will be of great value to your community and state and who may also ultimately receive prestigious recognition. To view a memo from Commissioner Armando Vilaseca and to find out more, visit <http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/awards.html#talent>.

Contact: Jill Remick at (802) 828-3154 or jill.remick@state.vt.us

From the Department for Children and Families:

**Public Comment Opportunity: Step Ahead Recognition System (STARS) Proposed Rules
Audience: School Districts Offering Prekindergarten Education, General Public**

The public is invited to comment on the proposed rules for the STep Ahead Recognition System (STARS). STARS is Vermont's quality recognition and improvement system for Child Development Division (CDD) regulated care and education programs. These proposed rules can be found on the CDD Web site <http://dcf.vermont.gov/cdd>. NOTE: Several changes to the current STARS standards and process are proposed in these draft rules. It is important for school districts implementing prekindergarten education to be aware of these proposed rules and weigh in with any concerns and suggestions. Comments will be accepted until May 13, 2009.
Contact: Jan Walker at (802) 241-2198 or jan.walker@ahs.state.vt.us

From the Department of Buildings and General Services:

School Purchasing Agent Newsletter

Audience: Administrators, Business Managers, School Purchasing Clerks

To view the latest purchasing newsletter (a monthly service) by the Purchasing and Contract Administration section of BGS, visit:

<http://bgs.vermont.gov/sites/bgs/files/pdfs/purchasing/BGS-Purchasing-newsletter.pdf>

To automatically get a copy of the purchasing newsletter e-mailed to you monthly, use this link (and follow directions below):

http://mail.state.vt.us/guestRmotelListSummary/Purchasing_News. Directions: click on MAILING LIST DIRECTORY box on left. Click on the letter "p" and then on the "purchasing" listserv link. Enter your e-mail address, click on immediate delivery and follow instructions for verification. You will be signed up for automatic delivery of the monthly purchasing newsletter entitled "BUYERS BUZZ."

Contact: Deborah Damore at BGS at (802) 828-5784 or deborah.damore@state.vt.us.

Weekly Field Memo is Online!

The DOE Weekly Field Memo is archived on the Department of Education Web site at http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/field_memo.html. Field Memos and the corresponding attachments are available for download. For Field Memo information three months or older, or for other questions, please contact Jill Remick, communications director, at (802) 828-3154 or jill.remick@state.vt.us.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

For the Department of Education Web site see: <http://education.vermont.gov/>. For upcoming events or professional development opportunities, see the DOE Calendar of Events located at: <http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/calendar.html>.

Main Department Line: (802) 828-3135

NOTE: For comments or questions specific to the messages above, please contact the person listed. DO NOT reply to this message.

This Field Memo is posted weekly by the Department of Education to better organize our e-communications to the field. There may be times when separate messages from the department will still be sent.